

PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

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Public Health Department,
Municipal Offices,
1, Western Parade,
Southsea.

To the Chairman and Members of the Port Sanitary Authority.

Sir,

I have the honour to present my report of the work of the Port Sanitary Authority of Portsmouth during the year 1947.

The total number of foreign and coastwise ships entering the port last year shows a marked increase as compared with the previous year.

There were no cases of infectious disease reported in the area during the year.

I desire to express my thanks to the King's Harbour Master and to H.M. Collector of Customs and staff for their cordial co-operation and valuable assistance during the year.

It is again my pleasure to record my appreciation of the excellent service readily and willingly given me by the Port Sanitary Inspector.

To the Chairman and Members of the Portsmouth Port Sanitary Authority my thanks are due for their unfailing sympathy and support in all matters relating to port sanitation throughout the year.

JURISDICTION OF THE PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY.

The limits of the jurisdiction of the Port Sanitary Authority are as follows :-

"So much of the Port of Portsmouth as lies to the west of a line drawn due south from the most southerly point of the pier at Stokes Bay to a point $50^{\circ} 45'$ N. Lat.; to the west of a line drawn due south to the same parallel of latitude from the south eastern extremity of the common boundary of the Parishes of Havant and Basingstoke; and to the north of a line drawn due west along the same parallel of latitude from the point at which the line lastly hereinbefore mentioned meets the said parallel to the point secondly hereinbefore mentioned.

Together with the waters of the said Port of Portsmouth within such limits, and the place which may from time to time be appointed for the Customs Boarding Station for such part of the said Port, and the place which may from time to time be appointed for the mooring and anchoring of ships for such part of the said Port, under any Regulations for the prevention of the spread of diseases issued under the Authority of the Statutes in that behalf, and the place which may from time to time be appointed, with our Consent, for the mooring or anchoring of any floating hospital provided by the said Sanitary Authority; and, for the purpose of any such Regulations as aforesaid, shall also extend to any ship which, in pursuance thereof, or of any directions given thereunder, shall be moored or anchored at the place appointed thereunder as aforesaid, or which shall be on its way thither, together with the docks, quays, wharves, rivers, creeks, streams, channels, roads, bays and harbours within the aforesaid limits."

I. ACCOUNT OF SHIPPING ENTERING THE PORT DURING THE YEAR.

TABLE A.

		Number inspected			Number of Vessels	
Num- ber	Tonnage	By the	By the	Number	Number	Reported as
		Medical Officer of Health	Sani- tary Inspec- tor	reported to be defective	of vessels on which defects were remedied	having or having had, during the voyage infectious disease on board.
<u>FOREIGN</u>						
Steamers	52 16,944	3	37	14	14	N i l
Motor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>COASTWISE</u>						
Steamers	1174 309,919	0	178	43	43	N i l
Motor	-	-	-	-	-	-
Sailing	-	-	-	-	-	-
Fishing	-	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Total</u>						
Foreign	1826 326,863	3	215	57	57	N i l
& Coast- wise						

II. CHARACTER OF TRADE OF PORT.

There was no passenger traffic during the year.

CARGO TRAFFIC. The Principal imports were coal, cement, stone, oil, timber, building materials, tomatoes, onions, potatoes and general cargo traffic, from France, Holland, Belgium, Germany, Sweden, Finland, Norway and Channel Islands.

III. SOURCES OF WATER SUPPLY.

The water used in the Docks is supplied by the Portsmouth Water Company. Vessels in dock are supplied from hydrants on the quay.

With regard to the supply of drinking water to ships arriving at and leaving the port, the following precautions are taken before water is supplied.

When the water is turned on it is allowed to run through the hydrants for a while and then the hose is connected and the water allowed to run through the hose in the same way. When the quantity of water needed has been supplied the hose is disconnected, the water allowed to run through, and the hose replaced in the store, where it is locked up safely. The hydrants are locked and covered up also, and the area in the vicinity of the hydrants and hose pipes is kept scrupulously clean by washing down.

IV. PORT HEALTH REGULATIONS, 1933.

1. Arrangements for dealing with Declarations of Health.

Declarations of Health, which must be filled in and signed by the Master of every ship arriving from a foreign port are obtained -

- (a) in respect of vessels from non-infected ports by the Customs Officer, who forwards them to the Port Medical Officer.
- (b) in respect of vessels from infected ports by the Port Medical Officer. Vessels are visited in dock by the Port Sanitary Inspector as soon as possible after docking.

2. Telegraphic address.

To avoid delay in notifying inward vessels requiring special attention, the telegraphic address "Portelth" suggested by the Ministry of Health, has been adopted by the Port Sanitary Authority.

3. Mooring stations.

Under Article 10 of the Port Health Regulations, 1933, the following mooring stations have been established, with the concurrence of the King's Harbour Master and the Commissioners of Customs and Excise; these are subject to variation by the Commander in Chief, should the necessity arise.

(a) OUTER MOORING STATION.

An area about half a mile north-west of Mother of Bark Spit.

(b) INNER MOORING STATION.

The upper reaches of Portsmouth Harbour.

This agreement is subject to the following understandings:-

(1) That the mooring place referred to at (a) above is for ships with cholera, plague, yellow fever, typhus fever or smallpox on board, and that at (b) for all other unhealthy ships not within a standing exemption.

(2) That a standing exemption from detention under Article 14 has been granted by the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority in respect of any ship which -

(1) has called at a port or seaboard included in the weekly return of infected or suspected ports or seabords, but reports "all well" during the voyage, or arrives with no sickness on board, unless a written notice to the contrary has been delivered to the Customs Officer by or on behalf of the Medical Officer of the Port Sanitary Authority.

(ii) has on board a case of minor infectious disorder, namely, chickenpox, measles, scarlet fever, diphtheria, enteric fever, erysipelas, malaria, dysentery, pneumonia, tuberculosis, mumps or cerebro-spinal fever.

(3) That when necessary the Port Sanitary Authority will convey the Customs Officers to the mooring place referred to as (a) above, free of expense to the Crown.

4. Arrangements for dealing with cases of Infectious Diseases, etc.

Cases of infectious diseases are removed to the City Infectious Diseases Hospital by means of the Municipal Ambulance and Medical Car Service, and cases of smallpox are removed to the smallpox hospital at Alton.

Contacts of Infectious Diseases Cases.

- (a) Living in the City. If not removed to hospital they are kept under observation by the Sanitary Inspector.
- (b) Proceeding to an address outside the City. The Medical Officer of Health of the place of destination is advised.

Accommodation is available at the docks for the medical examination of suspected cases if necessary.

Personnel and clothing are disinfected at the Infectious Diseases Hospital. Provision can be made for the temporary accommodation of persons who may have to be detained pending further examination.

Arrangements are made at the Venereal Diseases Clinic, Saint Mary's Hospital, for the diagnosis and treatment of venereal diseases among sailors.

TABLE C.

There were no cases of infectious diseases landed from vessels.

TABLE D.

There were no cases of infectious disease occurring upon the voyage but disposed of prior to the vessel's arrival.

V. MEASURES AGAINST RODENTS.

Vessels arriving from abroad are examined periodically by the Port Sanitary Inspector. Rat disinfection is carried out at regular intervals by the Rodent Control Section of the Medical Officer of Health's department.

When necessary rat guards are placed on ropes between ships and the quays. The Port is not approved for the deratisation of ships.

RATS DESTROYED DURING THE YEAR (in vessels)

TABLE E.

<u>Number of Rats</u>	<u>Total:</u>
Black	-
Brown	-
Species not recorded	-
Examined	-
Infected with plague	-

TABLE F.

RATS BATHED IN DIPS, DIPS, DIPS, DIPS.

<u>Number of Rats</u>	<u>Total</u>
Black	217
Brown	615
Species not recorded	-
Examined	-
Infected with Plague	-

VI. HYGIENE OF CHINA'S SITES.

TABLE J.

<u>Nationality of Vessel</u>	<u>No. Inspected during year</u>	<u>Defects of original construction</u>	<u>Structural defects through wear and tear</u>	<u>Dirty, vermin and other conditions prejudicial to health.</u>
British	178	-	-	43
Other Nations	37	-	-	14

VII. FOOD INSPECTION.

The importations of foodstuffs are small in amount, these being chiefly potatoes, vegetables, butter, margarine, bacon, flour, wheat, tomatoes and sugar. During the year no adverse reports were made by the Veterinary Officer and Food Inspector.

Shell-fish - There is no oyster-landing within the area of the Port Health Authority.

During the year no action was taken under the Public Health (Imported Food) Regulations, 1937, the Public Health (Preservatives etc. in Food) Regulations, 1925 to 1940, and the Public Health (Imported Milk) Regulations, 1926, the Public Health (Shellfish) Regulations, 1934, and the Food and Drugs Act, 1938 (Section 39).

The number of livestock landed at the docks from the Isle of Wight was 475 (Horses 66, Cattle 166, Calves 14, Sheep 57 and Pigs 172). During the inspections of livestock no clinical evidence of the existence of any contagious or notifiable diseases was found.

I have the honour to be, Madames & Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

J. B. Roberts

Medical Officer of Health,
City and Port of Portsmouth.

24th February 1948.

